

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today announced that more insurance companies have announced they will voluntarily provide coverage for graduating college seniors and young adults under age 26. These companies have agreed to this in advance of the September requirement to do so included in the health insurance reform legislation passed earlier this year.

"Today, one-third of young Americans have no health insurance, so this move by insurance companies is a good one," Rep. Farr said. "I hope more insurance companies follow their lead. The reform bill gave these companies six months to comply, but the quicker they are able to offer coverage to young Americans, the better."

On Tuesday, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente and Humana have joined WellPoint and United Healthcare in immediately offering continued coverage for young Americans.

"This is a good-faith move by the insurance companies," Rep. Farr said, "and it proves that the threats of Congressional Republicans to repeal this law are foolhardy and politically motivated."

Young people as a group are among the most likely to be uninsured. Nearly half (47 percent) of those 19 to 24 have gone without health insurance in the past year.

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